

from W. G. Robertson

to James B. Walker

10/11/1897

J. B. Walker Esq
Mess^{rs} Walker & Wolfhagen
Sol^{rs}

Hobart

R. 4/11/97

46 Queen St. Melbourne
1 Nov. 1897

Dear James

Your Sister began her journey under favorable auspices. No mere mill pool smoothness in those Straits called after Bass but the "multitudinous sea" as the divine William hath it. How lucky are some people in their experiences! What matters the furious grip of mal de mer if one outlives the storm to tell the tale? 'Tis better to have loved and lost the risk

As Sarah did not land here till near midnight on Friday I saw nothing of her till Saturday afternoon when I got to Crosby about 5 and stayed until 9. I gave her such "tips" as I could in the short time and I have since written a few lines to catch her at Adelaide. The "Anna" got off about 10 AM on Saturday & would therefore reach Largs Bay about 10 AM today. Crosby saw to the

luggage being put safely on board so that Sara had only hand things to carry down with her at 9.25. Apparently she will get her cabin all to herself. Saturday night was fine and fairly calm here but I fear that Sunday morning was rough the Sunday evening was gloriously fine. Not so today for there has been a lively S.W. gale with showers and a very low temperature and prospects for "the Gulf" tomorrow are not of the brightest.

Your sister says that her ticket is a nine months return. This would bring her back in August - a month not to be thought of being the worst of the whole year for heat in the Red Sea and Indian Ocean as this years experience has proved. Sara will have to get an extension and come out about November 1898. This is the month when my sister Jessie is to return. I have given Sara letters addressed to I hope

that they may meet as Jessie has in a most surprising manner "found her way about" while having to cultivate economy as a fine art. This will about fit your sisters' book and if the two can meet at some point or points and afterward return by the same ship I will be glad.

Our Mr. England goes by the "China" as a first class passenger and until his return I am a close prisoner here. Had it not been for this I could have promised your sister a fairly early meeting somewhere in England but now I can't expect to be in that tight little island much before mid June 1898. Should I take the proposed trip the probability is that I will take my sister across the Continent to some Mediterranean port and this might harmonise with your sister's plans - but "che sara sara" as say the Italians.

Unless you come across here there
is no chance of my seeing you for
a long while.

I hope Ida enjoyed her Sydney
trip

With all kind remembrances
Ever yours

W. Robertson

PJ I gave Sara the two golden
rules for the traveller—

- 1 Never miss an opportunity
- 2 See all that you can for
nothing.

R. 10/11/97

146 Queen St.

Monday

Dear Jenn

A little more about

Sarah and her flight to Europe.

I was out chez ma sœur Mrs

Throssell yesterday who told me that

a very-much-friend of hers Mrs Basil

Brooke was a second class passenger

per "China" as far as Colombo and was

accompanied so far by a Miss Williams

going "to the East" as a Missionary. As

Mrs Basil Brooke is the wife of a

Solicitor & is a lady I have no doubt

that she and Sara have "chummed"

by this time and become friends
tho' only to part.

Our Mr England got away
from Melbourne on Cup Day & I made
him promise that, weather and his
health permitting, he would give
Sara an outing at Colombo - Either
to Hardy or Mount Lavinia. She is
therefore pretty sure to see a little of
the attractive side of Colombo while
there. I wish I had known beforehand
that Mrs Brooke was going by the
'China' - however, things will no doubt
right themselves.

I had a letter on Saturday from
C B Hardy Solicitor of Adelaide who

married the youngest Maidowell.
He saw Mr England off in the
'China' from Largs Bay thro' having
gone down to the Bay to see some
people away by that Steamer on
board of which he was when Mr E
turned up. We were glad to know
that Mr E had thus got away all
right, and was comfortably cabined.

Saturday's Argus gave the news
of James Walsh's death - at which
I was both grieved and glad,
as he had been such a terrible
sufferer. My Sister said something
to me about a death in the Mather
circle but I was unable to question

her as to it. You will no doubt
mention it when you next write.

I am now over head and ears
in business and have a nigger-
-driving season before me. All work
and no play - tho' no doubt the
pay will be "all there". It will
be a trying time but the resultant
holiday will be all the sweeter
when it comes. Oh for the land
of "passes peaks and glaciers."

Always yrs

W. Robertson

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